

All comments received, including names and addresses, received will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. Please refer to the respective permit number for each application when requesting copies of documents. Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice, to the address above.

Lynn B. Starnes,
Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque,
New Mexico.
[FR Doc. 96-24160 Filed 9-19-96; 8:45 am]
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Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Bluemask (=Jewel) Darter for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service. Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a technical/agency draft recovery plan for the bluemask (=jewel) darter. This small darter (2 inches long) is endemic to the Caney Fork River system (above Great Falls), Cumberland River Basin, in central Tennessee. The species was historically known from five rivers and is still known from four of these rivers (Cane Creek, Van Buren County; Collins River, Warren and Grundy Counties; Rocky River, Van Buren County; and Upper Caney Fork River, White County). The Collins River population inhabits about 23 stream miles. However, the other three populations inhabit less than 2.8 stream miles each. Populations of this species have been fragmented by habitat alteration, water withdrawal, and the general deterioration of water quality resulting from siltation and other pollutants contributed by coal mining, gravel mining, poor land use practices, and waste discharges. These factors continue to impact the species and its habitat. The species' present limited distribution also makes it vulnerable to extirpation from stochastic

events such as chemical spills. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 19, 1996 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the technical/agency draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Asheville Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (Telephone 704/258-3939). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Biggins, Fish and Mollusk Recovery Coordinator, at the address and telephone number shown in the "Addresses" section (Ext. 228).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, criteria for recognizing the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The primary species considered in this draft recovery plan is the bluemask (=jewel) darter (*Etheostoma (Doration) sp.*). The areas of emphasis for recovery

actions are the tributaries of the Caney Fork River system (above Great Falls Reservoir). Cumberland River basin, in central Tennessee. Habitat protection, population augmentation and reintroduction, and the preservation of genetic material are the major objectives of this recovery plan.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the final plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 16, 1996.

Brian P. Cole,
State Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-962-1410-00-P]

Alaska; Notice for Publication AA-10698 Alaska Native Claims Selection

In accordance with Departmental regulation 43 CFR 2650.7(d), notice is hereby given that a decision to issue conveyance under the provisions of Sec. 14(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1601, 1613(h)(1), will be issued to Bering Straits Native Corporation for approximately 5.5 acres. The lands involved are in the vicinity of Lapplander Village, Alaska.

Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

T. 19 S., R. 8 W.,

Sec. 31;

Sec. 32.

A notice of the decision will be published once a week, for four (4) consecutive weeks, in the *The Nome Nugget*. Copies of the decision may be obtained by contacting the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, 222 West Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599 (907) 271-5960.

Any party claiming a property interest which is adversely affected by the decision, an agency of the Federal government or regional corporation, shall have until October 21, 1996 to file an appeal. However, parties receiving service by certified mail shall have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal. Appeals must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management at the address identified above, where the requirements for filing an appeal may be obtained. Parties who do not file an